

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1570**

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**Introduced by Committee on Veterans Affairs (Salas (Chair), Lieu,  
V. Manuel Perez, Saldana, and Yamada)**

March 16, 2009

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An act relating to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1570, as introduced, Committee on Veterans Affairs. Veterans: service providers.

Existing law establishes the Department of Veterans Affairs. Among other duties, the department is authorized to assist every veteran of any war of the United States and the dependent or survivor of every veteran in presenting and pursuing claims against the United States that the veteran may have arising from war service and in establishing the veteran's or dependent's right to privilege, preference, care, or compensation as provided for by federal or state law, as specified.

Existing law also authorizes the board of supervisors of a county to grant financial assistance, relief, and support to indigent veterans. Existing law requires an organization desiring to assist indigent veterans to first file with the board of supervisors of the county in which it is operating or intending to operate a verified statement setting forth specified information regarding the organization, including its financial condition.

This bill would express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would ensure that the selection process to determine whether the state shall award a grant for a project that would provide, or enter into a contract to provide, services to veterans shall include a preference for awarding a grant to, or entering into a contract with, an entity that meets

specified criteria. The bill would also express the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that would ensure that the selection process to determine whether the state shall award a grant, or enter into a contract, to provide social services to veterans shall include a requirement that the applicant or bidder submit with the application for the grant or the bid for that contract a specified certification from the Department of Veterans Affairs indicating that the applicant or bidder is qualified to provide services to veterans and is capable of managing the grant moneys provided, or the contract funds allocated, as applicable, in a fiscally prudent manner, as specified.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. (a) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact  
2     legislation that would ensure that the selection process to determine  
3     whether the state shall award a grant for a project that would  
4     provide, or enter into a contract to provide, services to veterans  
5     shall include a preference for awarding the grant to, or entering  
6     into a contract with, an entity that meets all of the following  
7     criteria:

8     (1) The facility or facilities in which the services will be  
9     provided shall be constructed or acquired using public financing,  
10    in whole or in part.

11    (2) The primary use of the facility or facilities shall be to provide  
12    services to veterans.

13    (3) The entity that is awarded the grant or that receives the  
14    contract shall verifiably demonstrate that the facility or facilities  
15    were constructed or acquired using public financing. Public  
16    financing may include grants, loans that incorporate special  
17    agreements for forgiveness or forbearance, loans offered at below  
18    market interest rates, or low-income tax credits provided for the  
19    construction of the facility or facilities.

20    (b) It is the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation that  
21    would ensure that the selection process to determine whether the  
22    state shall award a grant, or enter into a contract, to provide social  
23    services to veterans shall include a requirement that the applicant  
24    or bidder submit with the application for the grant or the bid for  
25    that contract a certification from the Department of Veterans

1 Affairs that the applicant or bidder is qualified to provide services  
2 to veterans and is capable of managing the grant moneys provided  
3 or the contract funds allocated in a fiscally prudent manner. The  
4 department may certify an entity for that purpose if the entity meets  
5 all of the following criteria:

6 (1) Demonstrates the knowledge, experience, and capacity to  
7 provide desired services to veterans.

8 (2) Demonstrates through audits and employment history the  
9 fiscal and management capacity to capably perform public  
10 contracts.

11 (3) Is incorporated with the primary purpose of providing  
12 services to veterans and their families.

13 (4) Demonstrates that the majority of the entity's resources are  
14 dedicated to serving the needs of veterans and their families.

15 (5) Demonstrates that all required filings with the Secretary of  
16 State, charitable trusts, and the Attorney General's office are  
17 current.

18 (6) Has the following up-to-date documents on file with the  
19 Department of Veterans Affairs: articles of incorporation, IRS  
20 Letter of Determination, taxpayer identification number, and  
21 independent audit reports dating back three years.